

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments see pages 8 & 9, filed 3/6/2008, with respect to claims 2-23 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andrew B. Freistein on 3/29/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

16. (Currently Amended **without renumbering** by examiner) The liquid absorbing layer according to claim 14, ~~wherein a~~ **further comprising a** phosphate-based liquid flame retardant **that** is bisphenol A bis(diphenyl)phosphate, hydroquinol bis(diphenyl)phosphate, phenyl dixylenyl phosphate, tricresyl phosphate, cresyl diphenyl phosphate, trixylenyl phosphate, xylenyl diphenyl phosphate, resorcinol bis(diphenyl)phosphate, or 2-ethylhexyl diphenyl phosphate and the phosphate-based liquid flame retardant is present in the monomer composition in an amount of 70 to 200 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the monofunctional monomer component and the polyfunctional monomer component combined.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The closest prior art Inagaki et al. US 6,696,197 discloses a liquid absorbing polymeric material formed into a sheet and designed to absorb electrolyte (Col. 13, Line 1-18). Inagaki et al. US 6,696,197 does not disclose a monofunctional monomer as benzyl acrylate, N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone, imide acrylate, acryloyl morpholine, phenoxyethyl acrylate, N,N-diethylacrylamide, methoxypolyethylene glycol acrylate, tetrahydrofurfuryl acrylate, or phenoxyethyl glycol acrylate as found in claim 14 nor would it have been obvious.

Similarly, Inagaki et al. '197 does not disclose the use of bisphenols as a flame retardant or the flame retardant present in the monomer's found in claim 15. Additionally applicant has further defined the phosphate-based liquid flame retardant as a bisphenol A bis(diphenyl)phosphate, hydroquinol bis(diphenyl)phosphate, phenyl dixylenyl phosphate, tricresyl phosphate, cresyl diphenyl phosphate, trixylenyl phosphate, xylenyl diphenyl phosphate, resorcinol bis(diphenyl)phosphate, or 2-ethylhexyl diphenyl phosphate and the phosphate-based liquid flame retardant is present in the monomer composition in an amount of 70 to 200 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the monofunctional monomer component and the polyfunctional monomer component combined.

Claims 2-13 & 16-23 are dependent on previously determined allowable claims 14 & 15. Applicant has rewritten claims so that previously examined subject matter is now dependent on the allowable subject matter.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GARY D. HARRIS whose telephone number is (571)272-6508. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM - 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Keith D. Hendricks can be reached on 571-272-1401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Holly Rickman/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794
For Gary Harris

<div>Application Number</div> <div></div>	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination	
	10/543,134	MORIYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	GARY D. HARRIS	1794	